Hilloring three arress over care

briefly alluded to the provisions of the bill. Mr. W. briefly alluded to the provisions of the bill. It brought under the operation of law those steam ferry-boats, tugs, and freight-boats which were not brought within the law of 1852, and upon which some of the most terrible accidents had happened for the reason of their not being within the law and subject to the inspection of supervisors. Additional restrictions were imposed for the carrying of spirits of turpentine, and other like combustibles. Penalties were provided against inscribing upon steamers false names. Provision was also made for the more complete inspection of steamboat boilers, and for the carrying of lights upon sading vessels; for compelling ocean-going passengers to put in water-tight apartments, and for determining how they should be used, and also limiting the number of passengers on board of these vessels; for removing the planks of vessels after a certain number of years for the purpose of discovering whether or not they were rotten; in case of accident, for the making of a report to the first custom-house officer the making of a report to the first custom-house officer which should be reached, giving a full and detailed ac-count of it under oath, and which shall be a matter of

Mr. SCOTT, of California, earnestly advocated the pas

age of this bill, contending that it would meet the cants of the country.

Mr. TAYLOR, of Louisiana, reviewed the laws passed Mr. TAYLOR, of Louisiana, reviewed the laws passed by Congress upon this subject, contending that their provisions were not enforced. He moved to amend the substitute by adding additional sections declaring that no policy of insurance shall be taken out upon the hull of any steamboat, upon passengers or freight, unless the owner had complied with the provisions of law in relation to the build of the vessel, its machinery, and so on. Also, that when an engineer has been in charge of a steamboat boiler when an explosion occurs which results in the loss of life; a pilot has been in charge when a collision occurs by which lives are lost; a master has been in charge when fire occurs occasioning loss of life—that in these instances no owner of a steamboat shall be permitted to employ that individual until a jury has not only exculpated him of all criminal charge, but has made a report in writing that he is free from all censure, and making null and void any insurance effected by the owner of such steamboat violating this provision. These provisions would bring into play the pecuniary interests of man, and make him an agent for the enforcement of the law.

the law.

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, of New York, reviewed at length the provisions of the bill, dwelling with particular emphasis upon the precautionary measures proposed which he argued would of themselves greatly increase the control which he argued ment to which he argued would of themselves greatly increase the safety of passengers, and objecting to the amendment of Mr. Tavion, on the ground that it would withdraw the carryers of freight from their business. In conclu-sion, he hoped the bill would be passed, for it was time that some means should be taken for the preservation of life on board of steamboats.

Mr. Clark of New York, proposed to send the bill to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. He was opposed to the first section because it proposed to extend the steambeat law of 1842, which had been found impracticable, and apply it to every ferry boat across the rivers of the country. There was serious doubt whether or not that provision was constitutional. The sixteenth section of the bill provided that no passenger steamer shall be permitted to carry more than one person to every seven tons of lawful toomage measurement, and yet this bill, which, in his judgment, would confiscate ten millions of dollars of the property of citizens of New York, was to be hurried through without full consideration. He would submit to the scher indement of the Hone whether this bill which CLARK, of New York, proposed to send the bill

property of citizens of New York, was to be hurried through without full consideration. He would submit to the sober judgment of the House whether this bill, which proposed to extend the power of Congress over the commerce of the country and to make these important innovations upon its business, should be passed over hastily, and without that opportunity for the closest scrutiny which was due to the subject.

Mr. LECHEE, of Virginia, opposed the bill at length, contending that it interfered with the rights of private citizens and the rights of the States. It was his opinion that it was the duty of the government to let the private citizen alone. If he chose to invest his capital in any business, let him judge of the risk and compensation which he shall receive. He was in favor of sending it to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, where Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, where it could be fully considered.

Mr. FLORENCE, of Pennsylvania, followed in opposi-

tion to the bill, arguing that, in consequence of the objections which had been urged against it, it should be more fully considered than it had yet been.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the statement of

the Treasury Department of the receipts, expenditures, and appropriations from 1789 to June 30, 1857; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

And then (at half-past three o'clock, p. m.) the Ho

MEMORIAL, MIC By Mr. DEWART: The memorial of Margaret Walts, praying sharp be allowed half-pay pension: referred to the Committee on Invalidation

ensions.

Mr. TAYLOR, of New York, gave notice of a bill to amend the "Accessablish a courf for the investigation of claims against the Unitedates," approved February 24, 1856. SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

The legislative body of France assembled on the 18th addres :

Messicurs Senators and Deputles: Every year at the period of the meeting of the Chambers I render you an account of what has been done during your absence, and I ask your concurrence for the measures to be taken. Since the last year the government has followed its progressive and regular march, exempt from all vain ostentations. It is often pretended that, in order to govern France, it is necessary perpetually to nourish the public spirit with some grand theatrical incident. I believe, on the contrary, that it suffices exclusively to attempt to do good in ry, that it suffices exclusively to attempt to do good in order to merit the confidence of the country. The action of the government is then limited to effecting that which is most useful, according to circumstances, in the dif-ferent branches of the administration.

In the interest of agriculture the exportation and the distillation of grain have been again authorized, and the support of the bank has given strength to landed credit. The waste lands have begun to be cultivated.

In the department of public works the most important sults are 1,330 kilometres of railway opened for traffic In the department of public works the most important results are 1,330 kilometres of railway opened for traffic in 1857; 2,600 additional kilometres conceded; the floating basin of St. Nazaire, and the canal from Caen to the Lea opened to navigation; plans for preventing disasters from inundations seriously studied and brought to a termination; our scaports improved, including those of Havre, Marseilles, Toulon, and Bayonne; in the north and east of France the working of rich and new coal mines commenced; at Paris the inauguration of the Louvre and Asylum of Vincennes; in the capital, as well as at Lyons, localities opened for the first time for centuries to air and light; over all France religious edifices newly built or restored from a state of ruin.

ices newly built or restored from a state of ruin.

Public instruction by the State has been develop the side of free instruction loyally protected. In 1857 the number of pupils has increased 1,500; instruction become more religious and more moral, elevated itself with a tendency toward a healthy scholarship and the useful sciences. The College of France has been reorganized. Primary instruction has been successfully extended.

The wish of the French government is, that the prin ciples of religious liberty shall be sincerely applied, with-out forgetting that the Catholic religion is that of the great majority of Frenchmen. That religion has never great majority of Frenchmen. That religion has never been either more respected or more free. The provincial councils assemble without impediments, and the bishops enjoy in all plenitude the exercise of their holy ministry. The Lutheran and reformed religions, as well as the Jews, participate in a just proportion in the payments of the State, and are equally protected.

The increasing dearness of all articles has obliged us from the last year to increase the salaries attached to the

State, and are equally protected.

The increasing dearness of all articles has obliged us from the last year to increase the salaries attached to the poorest paid officers. The condition of the soldier has been ameliorated, and the pay of the lower grade of officers augmented. The budget of 1859 increases the stipend of curates, and also that of professors and school-masters as well as of Junes de pair.

masters, as well as of Juges de paix.

Amongst auxiliary measures, I will point out the extension of friendly and benefit societies in the rural comreason of friendly and benefit exceles in the rural communes, the increase of district surgeons in the towns, the establishment of economic ovens, and a million has been distributed in aid of the population suffering from the accidental interruption of labor.

The budget of 1859, which will be presented to you,

will establish an excess of receipts over expenditures, re-new the action of the sinking fund, close the account of the funded debt, and assure the reduction of the fleating

Commerce has recently experienced distress and a period of stagnation; but its firmness in the midst of a crisis that may be termed universal is in all eyes an honer to France, and justifies the economic principles counselled by the government in matters of trade, finance, and credit.

The increase in the direct types during the

The increase in the direct taxes during the year just

The increase in the direct taxes during to closed amounts to 30,000,000 frates.

Among the different bills of general interest which will be submitted to you. I will indicate a law on licenses, which will relieve the smaller tax-payers; a new maval in the submitted of the submitted of the smaller tax-payers; a new maval. which will relieve the smaller tax-payers; a new naval and military code; a proposition for appropriating a sum of 20,000,000 france, the remainder of the war loans, to the completion of works destined to protect towns against inundations.

inundations.

Algeria, connected with France by the electric telegraph, has beheldour troops covered with new glory by the submission of Kabylia. That expedition, ably conceived and vigorously executed, has completed our domination. The army, which has no longer enemies to combat, will have to contend with new difficulties in opening railroads, so necessary to the development of the prosperity of our colors.

olony.

In France the army will find in the camp of Chalons grand school, which will maintain at the height which they have attained both the military spirit and military

instruction.

The Emperor Napoleon had left to his old companions in glory his cytivate and his extraordinary domains. The State absorbed them under the restoration. It was to carry into effect in some degree this pious legacy that you have voted on the one hand a sum of 8,000,000f., and, op the other, nearly 3,000,000f. of annual relief for old soldiers. Nevertheless, I have wished that a medal should recall Nevertheless, I have wished that a friedal should recall to all those who had served in our armies the last thought of their old chief. More than 300,000 men in France and in other countries have claimed this memorial medal of the imperial times, and, in receiving it, have been able proudly to say, "And I, also, was one of the grand army"—words which the Emperor at Austerlitz pointed to as a future title of nobility.

Our marine, whose arschals are occupied in necessary transformations, maintains on all the seas the honor of

ransformations, maintains on all the seas the honor the French flag, and contends in China, in concert with the English fleet, for the redress of common grievances, and to avenge the blood of our missionaries cruelly mas-

The relations of France with foreign powers have never been better. Our old allies, faithful to the sentiments emanating from a common cause, testify the same confidence; and the new ones, by their honorable proceedings, by their loyal concurrence in all the great questions, make us almost regret that we have aught against them. I have been able to convince myself, at Osborn as at Stattgart, that my desire to preserve the intimacy of old ties, as well as to form new ones, was shared equally by the beach of transact consists.

heads of two great empires.

If the policy of France is appreciated in Europe as it deserves, it is because we have the good sense not to interfere but with questions which directly interest us, either teriere but with questions which directly interest us, either as a nation or as a great European power. So am I cautious about interposing in the question of the Duchies, which to-day agitates Germany, for the question, purely German, will remain such so long as the integrity of Den-mark shall not be menaced.

matk shall not be menaced.

If I have, on the contrary, occupied myself with the affairs of Neufchatel, it was because the King of Prussia claimed my good offices; and I have been happy on that occasion to contribute to the definitive conclusion of a lispute that might have become dangerous to the peace

Europe.
With regard to the principalities, astonishment is expressed at our concurrence with several of our allies. But France, in the disinterestedness of its policy, has al-ways protected, so far as treatles permitted, the wishes of the population who had turned their faces towards her. Nevertheless, the conferences which will be opened at Paris will see us actuated by a spirit of conciliation cal-culated to diminish the difficulties inseparable from a di-

culated to diminish the difficulties inseparable from a divergence of opinion.

Such, gentlement, is a summary of the situation.

I could here terminate my discourse; but I think it useful, at the commencement of a new legislature, to examine with you that which we are, and that which we wish to be. It is only causes well defined and clearly formulated which create profound convictions; it is only flags loftly displayed which inspire sincere devotion.

What is the empire? Is it a retrograde government, inimical to intelligence, destrous of compressing generous asspirations, and, it a word of obstructing the needle aspirations, and, in a word, of obstructing the pacifi spread of all that is good and civilizing in the great prin spread of all that is good and civilizing in the great prin-ciples of 1789? No; the empire has inscribed those prin-ciples at the head of its constitution. It adopts frankly all that can ennoble the heart and elevate the intelligence towards what is good. But also, as the enemy of all abtowards what is good. But also, as the enemy of all ab-stract theory it requires a strong rule, capable of van-quishing the obstacles which might seek to arrest its march. For, let it not be forgotten, the march of every new power for a long period is a struggle. Besides, it is a truth written in each page of the history of France and England, that liberty without impediment is impossible, so long as there exists a dispute respecting the fundamen-tal basis of government; for then liberty, instead of en-lightening, controlling, and ameliorating government, is nothing but a weapon in the hands of parties for its over-throw.

As I have not accepted power from the nation the design of acquiring that ephemeral popularity which is the deceptive reward of concessions snatched from feebleness, but with that of meriting one day the approbation of posterity by founding something durable in France, I do not fear to declare to government to-day that the danger, whatever they may say, is not in the excessive prerogatives of the authorities, but rather in the absence of repressive laws. Thus, the last elections, notwithstanding their satisfactory result, have presented in certain places an afflicting spectacle. Hostile parties have profited by them to agitate the country; and men have been seen loudly professing that they were of the national institutions, deceiving the el false promises; and after having solicited their electing them afterwards with disdain

You will not permit the renewal of such scandals, and ou will not permit the renewal of such scandals, and ou will compel all persons to take the oath to the constitution before offering themselves as candidates. The tranquillization of the public mind ought to be the con-stant object of our efforts. You will aid me to discover the means of reducing to silence extreme and factitious oppositions. Is it not painful in a calm, prosperous, positions. Is it not paintil in a caim, prosperous, and respected country of Europe to see, on the one hand, persons decrying the government to which they owe the security they enjoy, while others profit by the free exer-cise of their rights to undermine its institutions? I receive with readiness, without being deterred on ac-

ount of their antecedents, all those who recognise th national will. As to those who provoke disturbances, and the organizers of conspiracies, let them know that their time is passed.

I cannot conclude without speaking of the late crimi nal attempt, and I deplore the sacrifice of so many vicinms in the attempt to reach the life of one individual Such plots, however, convey a useful lesson. In the firs those who resort to them betray their own weal place, those who resort to them ness and impotence. In the second place, assassination ness and impotence of the assassins. Neither they who never serves the cause of the assassins. Neither they who struck Julius Czesar nor they who struck Henri IV profit-ed by their murder. God sometimes permits the death of the just; but never the triumph of crime. These attempts can neither disturb the present nor the future. If I live the empire will live with me. If I fall the empire will be confirmed even by my death; for the indignation of the French people and army will afford a new prop to

of the French people and arty the throne of my son.

Let us look upon the future with confidence; let us, without disquieting prececupations, acquit ourselves of our daily labors, for the advantage and grandeur of our country. Dieu protege la France.

TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON.

Wolfe's Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps. The proprietor begs leave to call the attention of strangers and the sizens of Washington to a very superior article of Holland gin, which introduced to the American public under the name of Welfe's Schie-

ery in Scinetian, potential. It is made from the best barley that can be precured in Europe at any cost, and flavored and medicated, not by the common harsh berry, but by the most choice botanical variety of the aromatic Italian juniper herry, whose more vinous extract is distilled and rectified with its spirituous solvent, and thus becomes a concentrated tincture of exquisite flavor and aroma, allogicher transcending in its cordial and medicinal properties any alcoholic beverage

beretofore known.

The proprietor has submitted it to nearly the whole medical faculty of the United States, and has received answers from about four thousand physicians and chemists, who endorse it, over their signatures, as a most desirable addition to the materia medica. a most destraine moment on materia medica, Persons who purchase should be careful to get the genuine article, is the whole country is flooded with counterfeits and imitations. Fut up in quart and pint bottles, in cases of one dozen each, and for

sale by all the respectable druggists and grocers in the United St. UDOLTHO WOLFE.

Sole Importer and Manufacturer, Depot No. 22 Beaver street, New York.

FOR SALE. A rare chance to secure a very fine indy a riding horse. He is a beautiful black, eight years old.

Infecen hands and upwards high, and sound. He cannot be surpassed to style and action, and is perfect in all and every gait. He can be seen at the fluory stable of Mr. Levy Pumphrey for a few days only. Feb. 3—dif

Dec 13 dimit

WASHINGTON CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 11, 1856. Mr. Iswart, E. Janes, of Philadelphia, is our general travell

CHI, Assisted by Janes Derring, John Colless, J. Harritt, Edwin Wilky, John K. Derring, E. A. Evane, R. S. Janes, T. Asenan, I Davis, R. T. Rourans.

*** Mr. Gro. W. Bray is authorized to collect moneys due the nion Office for subscriptions and advertisements in the District of

Commbia.

Mr. C. W. James, No. 1 Harrison street, Cincinnati, Ohio, is our general collecting agent for the Western States and Texas, assisted by H. J. Thomas, William H. Thomas, Thos. M. James, Dr. A. L. Childe Gronon Morriso, and Richard Learn. Receipts of either will be good.

THE SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

We republish this morning the remarkable speech of the Emperor Napoleon to the senators and deputies of the Empire. This speech, besides possessing the peculiar merit of comprehensiveness, we venture to say is not less noteworthy for the boldness of its policy and the liberality of its sentiments. The experience of the Emperor in the school of adversity has not been forgotten. It is no disadvantage for an American statesman to have been abroad to have witnessed the operations of other governments to have studied the character and modes of life of other people. Our system, however, is based upon the popular will, either directly or indirectly expressed. and is not therefore so liable to be controlled by individual judgment. We look to the effect of certain great fundamental maxims of government, and exer cise far more vigilance to circumscribe the operations of the State than to introduce new schemes and projects. We adhere to the idea that laws do not make money, that they simply affect distribution between capital and labor. It would seem, from the deprecatory terms in which the Emperor, in his opening remarks, alluded to the "pretence," as he calls it, that it was necessary, in order to govern France, 'perpetually to nourish the public spirit with some grand theatrical incident," that he has adopted our democratic notions to some extent. He says on this subject:

"I believe, on the contrary, that it suffices exclusively to attempt to do good in order to merit the confidence of the country. The action of the government is then lim-ited to effecting that which is most useful, according to

The Emperor, too, endorses our national policy of non-intervention. He says !

"If the policy of France is appreciated in Europe as it deserves, it is because we have the good sense not to interfere but with questions which directly interest us, either as a nation or as a great European power."

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY-WHAT IS IT

We venture to say that we have propounded a question which it is most difficult to answer. We submit the inquiry in no irreverent or even partisan spirit. We want to know something of the elements, the purposes, and the character of the republican party. To say that it is a sectional organization, confined exclusively to the free States, that it seeks control of federal affairs through the conceded majorities of the North, is not enough. It has no history, no nationality, and of course no patriotism. It is a mere storm-cloud, filled with destructive elements with the powers of evil. Its rise has been rapid, as its life has been threatening. Its growth has signalized the coming of doubts, misgivings, and distrust about the value, and the possibility of maintaining, the integrity of the federal Union. It has divided us into two parts in sentiment, in feeling, and in action. It has raised up and stimulated into life intense political hatreds. It has sought to array the North against the South, and the South against the North. It is, then, a disunion party; it is more, it is a destructive, deceptive political organization, that, for temporary possession of office and power, is ready to sacrifice the prosperity and the common welfare of this great nation. We do not use this manner of speech in a partisan spirit and meaning. We have no epithets; no coarse language of detraction and abuse, to apply to the republicans. We respect political parties; we believe in their good offices-that they stimulate honesty. They are the watch of the ship; the detectives of the police; the picket-guard of the army. They promote investigation and reflection; they hold the representative to account, and visit corruption and villany with quick rebuke. The history of this government is a history of parties. It originated in party; in the democratic spirit of independence which gave it its name and its attributes.

Have we now in the United States political parties contending for control-political parties addressing their claims to the people of the confederacy? No. The democracy is without such a contestant. It has no such rival. We are met by a faction in the North-and a faction it will be, and that only, when, if ever, its numbers shall overwhelm the lemocracy and the Union together. It is idle and wicked to attempt to conceal from the American people the great fact that the triumph of the republians is the overthrow of the very principle and sentiment upon which the constitution was framed and adopted. There is not one political heresy in this country more fatal to its peace and welfare than that blind feeling which exists that the constitution itself is an instrument of power. There is no strength in that compact, which is not imparted to it by the people and the States in the current relations of the day. When the value of the Union shall cease to be appreciated-when its members shall become rivals instead of allies and friends-its covenants will dissolve into air, and its bonds be exchanged for imple-

ments of war. Is it within the power of man to conceive a plan by which these bonds can be sooner weakened and destroyed than by the organization of what we call the republican party? All concede that the imbittered feeling, now too common, between the free and the slave States, is the point of our greatest weakness. If there is danger it is there. If the constitution is threatened it is there. If we look for the causes of present estrangement, present contentions and misapprehensions, it is there. If we regard the future, we instinctively turn to the sections to tell us the tone of public sentiment, that we may count the chances of national life hereafter. The eye of the nation is upon the sections more than upon the

Then what is the republican party? We may not say it is treasonable, illegal, or criminal. We cannot power to suppress it. But we do say it is a factionthat it is wholly wanting in magnanimity and brotherly attributes. We deny it all patriotism; for it proscribes nearly half the States of the Union and seeks to array the other half in bitter hostility against them. Its policy is narrow, illiberal, and bigoted. It seeks to gain power not alone by numbers, but by Bond, merchants. Losses supposed to be large.

making the minority subjects of the majority—and this upon a geographical basis. It is a disunion party, because the weapons of its

warfare, and all the agencies it employs to gain control, serve directly and of necessity to undermine and destroy the spirit of unity which is the essential element that keeps us together as one people. We have no belief whatever, for instance, that the fierce controversy into which we have been driven in reference to Kansas is regarded by the republi cans as of the least consequence, except as an instrument of agitation to be used to embitter the North against the South. This is shown by their quick transfer, so recently made, of the "slavery question in Kansas for that of " popular sovereignty," " elec tion frauds," "Missouri invasion," and some other clap-traps thrown out as a net to catch democrats. Is it not true that the republicans live alone in the North, seek to operate alone upon northern sentiment, receive only northern support, recognise only northern men, and use every power they possess to ompress the practical government of the Union into the free States? Is this not faction? and will it be ess faction in its highest possible successes?

It might as well be claimed that the inmates Exeter Hall and the hereditary abolitionists of Engnd constitute one of our political parties—that the onemies of free government in all countries are to be counted as a common party arrayed against the American democracy and the American Union

MR FESSENDEN ON ENABLING LAWS Mr. Fessenden is a senator, representing, in part the State of Maine. Mr. Fessenden is what is called "republican"-which signifies a disciple of the republic-a friend of the constitution, a true lover of the federal Union. We are not about to higgle upon arbitrary names" to prove that Mr. Fessenden and his motley associates—who have an immense horror of the climate, soil, labor, productions, and men of the South-who live, politically and corporeally, in the North-whose career is a perpetual assault upon the republic-should have been named sectionalists. There is some excuse, however, to be urged in behalf of Mr. Fessenden and his friends in taking their title, in the fact, that the ingenious Boniface, whose authority, we take it, is very strong with the "republicans," enhanced the value of his ale by " calling it Burgundy."

But we return to Mr. Fessenden on the President's nessage and enabling laws. He quotes thus: " It being the true intent and meaning of this act

o legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to ex-lude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof."— Here (says Mr. Fessenden) the President insert in framing their constitution;" but, "in fram-

ing their constitution" is not there. " perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic in stitutions in their own way, subject only to the constitu-tion of the United States.

Then Mr. Fessenden concludes that the act of 1854 was not an enabling act, because it did not imbody the explanatory words of the President "in framing their constitution." Now, we desire to know how a people are "to form and regulate their domestic institutions," under our system of government, without the use of organic laws? Such has been the uniform practice in the States, and in the Territories when preparing for admission into the Union. There are now before Congress two new constitutions framed by two of the Territories, both claiming admission. Each has framed its constitution, one under a specific act of Congress, the other under what Mr. Walker calls a "comprehensive law," which leaves the people" "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States. If they are thus left free from all other restraints than such "only" as are imposed by the federal con stitution, we would like to know by what right Congress hinges its claim to interfere at this stage of the case? But, again: The "republicans" voted last year to admit Kansas under the Topeka constitutiona government gotten up by insurrection and suported by "iniquitous rebels," as Mr. Walker says hey were-by "mob violence," as Mr. Douglas de clares. It is thus clear that the "republicans" do not regard an enabling act as necessary. Then, what is Mr. Fessenden about?

We come in at this point with the pr cure all the evils complained of, by claiming the passage of an act of admission-an enabling act in its broadest and deepest sense. What says Mr. Fessenden to this liberal measure of compromise and re-

EXPLOSION OF THE COL. CROSSMAN. The telegraph has already announced the explosion of

the boilers of the 'Colonel Crossman' on the Mississippi river, near Madrid, Missouri, on the 4th instant. Th number of lives lost is stated at 22. A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican gives the subjoined brief ac count of this terrible accident :

At about seven o'clock on last Thursday evening, the 4th instant, the Crossman took fire about one mile above New Madrid by the explosion of the nigger boiler or doc tor. The flames spread rapidly fore and aft, and in abou thirty minutes she was burned to the water's edge. Two firemen, the barkeeper, and one deck hand were killed instantly. There were seven ladies and three or four children in the cabin, five or six of whom were lost. the first intimation of danger, part of the crew seized the yawl and made for shore in defiance of the officers leaving all on board to their fate. The life-boat was immediately lowered, which took off nineteen of the passe gers, three of whom were ladies. The hull floated dow below New Madrid, and sunk in four feet water.

THE LEVIATHAN.—The Leviathan may now be consid ed as launched, for on the 16th January there were thir-teen feet seven inches of water under her, and, if it had been thought necessary or desirable, she might have been floated with the aid of a couple of steam tugs. It was, however, thought advisable that it would be more advan-tageous to allow her to remain in her present position until the next spring tides, which will take place on Saturday, January 30. A very large amount of work has yet to be done in the fittings of the interior, the flooring the deck, and other matters.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.—The Philadelphia Led ger states that the long-pending suit of the Bank of the United States against the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad Company, in which was claimed about \$135,000, has been compromised, settled, and discharged from the docket. The settlement is considered highly advantageous to the company, removing, as it does, a claim for a very large sum, by the comparatively small payment of about \$20,000, at the same time dispersing a cloud which was regarded as threatening.

No HOUSE AFTER ALL. - It appears that General New will not get that house after all, the project having been abandoned. Six hundred dollars had been collected, deny the right of its organization. We have no which was returned to the donors. It is alleged that the complaints of the tax were so great that it was deemed advisable not to proceed:

LARGE FIRE AT EDENTON, N. C .- A very destructive fire occured there on the 3d inst., consuming an entire block of buildings on Main street, and destroying a large

THE PROSPECT FOR THE FUTURE TRADE IN THE

NORTH PACIFIC. In a communication which appeared in the Union of the 23d of January, I briefly alluded to the evident in tention of Russia to cultivate friendly commercial relations with our citizens on the North Pacific, and called the attention of the government to the fact that there is at present no treaty between the United States and Ru which such trade could be regulated.

relative to a Pacific milroad, have awakened the interest of the English, who seem to think that Russia is medita ting some stroke against China, either for the purpose of annexation or else in co-operation with some one of great powers - meaning, evidently, the United Statesto get possession of all the trade of Asia. The St. Petersburgh Zeitung, in reply to an article in the London Time about the inevitable antagonism of England and Russia in Asia, says: "While we willingly and readily recog nise England's rightful claim to work out her historica mission in southern Asia, we maintain equally firmly that northern Asia has been made over to Russia's hands. Russia has, however, in northern Asia, an incomparably more difficult task to accomplish than England in southern Asia. Siberia is a giant that lies, muscle bound, n a trance—whose pulse scarcely beats—whose breath i hardly drawn, but whose enormous vital powers are awaiting only the moment of waking. The time has now come for us t proceed energetically to work, and call into existence the life that everything is yearning for. On the whole fron-tier of South Siberia, from the Ural to the Pacific ocean, we must have good safe roads of communication that shall open up intercourse with southern Asia." The Boston Post, referring to the above, says: "This vision of prosperity and civilization to be conferred on Siberia is justified, to a very considerable extent, by the progress already made." At the close of 1856 postal tations had been erected all along the whole line of the Amoor river from Strelotschnaia to Nicholaiff, the military station at the mouth of the Amoor. During the month of November of that year, an American ship, the Europa, arrived at Nicholaiff, having on board two iron ers intended for the navigation of the Amoor These steamers, named the Amoor and Lena, were put together during the winter. The former has 66-horse power, the latter 35, and draws only 31 feet of water, so that she can ascend the Amoor as far as Ust-Strelotschnain Some idea of the vastness of the extent of country which he Amoor traverses may be inferred from the fact that on the first trip of the Lena up the stream in July last she was thirty days reaching the point of confluence of the two rivers that subsequently bear the name of Amoor, although she met with no accident or detention. Nicholaiff there had arrived, up to the 18th of last July. two vessels from Boston, two from Hong-Kong, and two from San Francisco, with goods to the amount of 382,000 silver roubles. Some Japanese vessels were also expected. A letter from Irkutsh, August 27, states that two new

owns in that district-Werchnolensk and Balaganshhad been inaugurated the past year. Irkutsh itself was expanding rapidly, and gaining in life and wealth from the constant passage through of large numbers of military to join the army in the Transbaikal territory and the Amoor. Inns and cafés, with strongly-developed western omforts, were described as having been thus brought into existence.

The mouth of the Amoor river is at the head of th Gulf of Tartary, and lies in about latitude 53° north and longitude 140° west. The nearest point in the American possessions to this river is the entraffice to the strait of Fuca, in Washington Territory, which is in latitude 48° 30' north and longitude 124° 30' west—a difference in latitude of only 270 miles, and distant 4,000 miles. It is to Fuca's straits and Vancouver's island that the

English are now turning their attention, with the hope to secure this great trade to themselves. The London Post of December 25th says:

"The message of the President of the United States recently communicated to Congress, recommends the con-struction of a railroad across the continent for the purposes of military defence. It must be obvious to the most su-perficial understanding that the opening of any inter-oceanic line through the territory of the United States would effect as great a resolution in the trade of the world as that would eject as great a revention in the trade of the world as that which was brought about by the discovery of the Cur of Good Hope route to India and to the other countries of the East. The trade of China, Japan, and of regions comparatively unknown, would be impelled to the Pacific terminus of the railroad, whence it would be carried to the great Atlantic ports, to be afterwards distributed over America and Euports, to be alterwards distributed over America and En-rope. Hong-Kong, Shanghai, Canton, and the other marts of China trade would be brought by steam within a few days' distance of the great American emporium which would spring up on the coast of the Pacific. If a facility of this kind existed, the most lucrative trade in the world would fall who the hands of the people of the United States, and the long voyages round the Cape, or round the Horn, would rarely be undertaken for any purpose of commer-cial easis. cial gain.
"Whilst the citizens and the government of the Uni
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ted States are perfectly alive to the advantages which their country would derive from the possession of this great 'highway of nations,' the merchant princes and ich capitalists of England appear almost to have forgotten that in British North America there exist vast re-gions admirably adapted for the construction of a rail-way, by means of which England could defy the competi-tion of the world. The position of British North Amer-ica is peculiarly favorable both as regards physical geography and means of water communication. The dis-tance between the northwest point of Lake Superior and the straits of Fuca on the Pacific is estimated not to ex-ceed sixteen hundred or eighteen hundred miles—just double the length of the great trunk railway of Canada. From the recent investigations of Professor Palliser, it appears that large portions of the territory through which the line would pass consist of level prairie lands, and that the most formidable difficulty which the projectors of such an undertaking would have to encounter would be the discovery of some pass or gorge in the Rocky mountains permitting the construction of a railway. "But no one can hold such an obstacle to be insupera-

ble, when, on the same continent, the science of a Ste phenson has spanned, by a bridge of two miles in length the waters of the mighty St. Lawrence."

The same journal then proceeds to show that the project of a railroad through the British possession to he Pacific is not a new one :

" In 1851 the scheme, of which we have given an out line, was submitted to the legislature of Canada by a gentleman named Allan McDonald. The scheme was rejected by the committee on the technical ground that projector had not obtained the necessary capital; but the report distinctly stated that the construction of such a milroad was not only desirable, but practicable, and that it ought at some future time to be undertaken

"The construction of such a railway from Halifax running to the northwest of Lake Superior and onware to the Pacific, would cost, as has been estimated, about ten or twelve millions sterling, a sum insignificant, when compared with the profits of that stream of wealth that would flow from the East through British territory to Britain herself. The abolition of the Hudson's Bay mo-Britain herself. The abolition of the Hudson's Ray mo-nopoly, and the constitution of Vancouver's island as a British colony, will attract hardy and enterprising set-tlers to the hitherto neglected regions bordering on the north Pacific; and, whether or not the formation of this north Pacific; and, whether or not the formation of this great inter-oceanic communication be speedily undertaken, a new Liverpool will spring up in that part of the world, affording a centre for British trade and British industry. With iron, coal, and timber upon the spot, the railroad then would become a matter of comparatively little difficulty. Commencing at both ends, and advancing with the progress of the population, it would eventually meet, and thus that iron girdle would be placed around the continent, subjecting territories which are now lying waste and unproductive to the beneficent dominion of civilization and commerce." The foregoing extracts seem to give convincing evi-

dence of the intention on the part of Russia to create a trade on the north Pacific, and of the intention of Great Britain to secure to herself the advantages of that trade. by means of a railroad within her own boundaries on this continent. Ignorant persons, both in and out of Congress, may think that by the oft-repeated assertion, "that it is impossible to construct a northern Pacific railroad on account of the extreme cold of that region," they are tution were adopted. making an unanswerable argument, and they may sucmaking prejudiced and Ignorant persons believe the truth of their assertions; but let any one not blinded by sectional prejudice examine the works of "Biodgett's dom, and says that he looks like Henry Ward Beccher.

American Climatology," "Maury's Geography of the Sea. and Professor Henry's admirable report, and they will find proof not only that, the climate on the 49th paralle west of the Rocky mountains is much warmer than the Alleghany range in Pennsylvania, but will be able to learn the natural causes that produce such effects.

The British not only know that north of our posses

sions is a region (that the great mass of the Am sions is a region (that the great mass of the American people have been led to consider a vast ice field) which is a fertile country, well adapted to the purposes of agricul-ture and settlement, but eminently qualified for railread purposes, and they seem determined to build that road This movement on the part of Russia, and the recom-mendation of the President in his message to Congress themselves. Men of enlarged and statesmanlike view should consider that while each section of our co demands a ready means of communication with the Pa cific, no one section can be possibly entitled to exclusive privileges; and it is a question to be considered whether Congress will grant facilities for the construction of a northern road within our borders, or whether that road northern road within our borders, or whether that rose shall be built in the British possessions by British capital. The remark of the London journal referred to, of ma-king Vancouver's island the "Liverpool of the Pacific," is full of deep significance. The English well know that Fuca's straits is the nearest and best point of approach from the Asiatic shores, and a depot established in these waters will command the trade of India, from its gen graphical position, both toward Russia and England in preference to any other port on the Pacific south of the Solumbia river

It is well, therefore, that, in view of all the facts, our government should at once make suitable commercial arrangements with Russia relative to the trade in the north Pacific and that the subject of a northern railroad to the Pacific within our borders should receive the careful at tention and consideration of this present Congress

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

The people do not sympathize in the extravagance of excitement which reigns at Washington in regard to Kansas. They see no occasion for passion in a moment like this, and upon a question so narrow in the margin of principle separating parties, and so little important in its consequences. The question is whether Congress shall pass an enabling law, authorizing the people of Kansas, through certain forms and procedures, to make a new constitution to be submitted to the powers at Washington; or whether they shall act themselves as a State, without the permission of Congress? If the advocates of an enabling act prevail, the question will probably come around again to Congress, after a year's agitation and delay in the Territory, in exactly the shape it now is—a new State asking admission, under a constitution which it may repeal or reform in sixty slays!—Albany Allas and Argus.

The Boston Daily Advertiser, in its narrative of events in the House of Representatives on Friday night last, refers to the gentleman who moved the resolution to ap point a special committee, with instructions to investigate the manner in which Kansas formed her State constitution as "Mr. Harris, of Illinois, (republican.") The Adver tiser is prompt in its recognition of Mr. Harris's services

Don't kick min.—Hon. Henry Wilson, senator from Massachusetts, according to present appearances, will not be returned to the Senate. Wilson appreciates this state of things; hence he has commenced blustering and latlying in Congress, in order, it is understood, to get kicked or cuffed—Sumnerized—and by that secure a re-election after the manner of his broken-headed colleague. The anti-Wilsonites of Massachusetts therefore appeal to fire-enters, in fact to all mankind, not to strike, beat, kick, maltreat, or in any way molest the aforesaid champion of freedom, for, if they do, he will be re-elected to the United States Senate in spite of thunder, and that would be doing them a great despite. They don't want the Sumner dodge played over again. The only thing that can save Wilson, Banks, & Co. from defeat in Massachusetts next Wilson, Banks, & Co. from defeat in Massach year will be a row of that kind, and noth gratify them more than to see it take place. It would be a god-send to them.—*Teog Daily Budget*. Principle and policy both dictate a compliance with the

wise and principle of the desired a compinance win the wise and principle and suggestions of Mr. Buchanan. Kansas should be admitted with the Lecompton constitution. No democrat can fail to see and appreciate the reasons for this course, who will read attentively the message of the President on this vexed Kansus question.

[Duylon (O.) Empire. The Ohio State Journal is not satisfied that the blad

republicans of the House of Representatives should follow the lead of "Douglas democrats." It says:

the lead of "Douglas democrats." It says:

"The republicans at home expect their representatives at Washington to take their natural and rightful position in opposition to the Lecompton swindle—in the van They rejoice to see that this is done in the Senate by Senators Hale, Trumbull, and Wilson. They will not be satisfied unless it is done also in the House. It is upon the republican phalanx alone that the people depend for carnest and effective resistance. If any portion of the supporters of James Buchanan now see fit to oppose the leading measure of his administration, let their support be cordially welcome. But if the support be earnest, and meant to be effective, those who give it will not ask the lead. To those who do ask or demand it it should never be conceded. Let the republicans act boldly upon their own convictions, and all will be well.

The New York papers contain the following call for a meeting in that city

The citizens of New York who are opposed to forcing the people of Kansas a constitution of government they have rejected, and who desire to s which they have rejected, and who desire to say the national democratic party from complicity in the frauds by which the Lecompton constitution is sustained are invited to attend a public meeting to be held at the Academy of Music, on Friday evening next at 8 o'clos o protest against the acceptance of that constitution

George Bancroft, Wm. F. Havemeyer, James E. Cooley, George Douglass, George B. Butler, Oliver DeFortest Grant.

Once On the 8th instant, in the house of represent tives of the Ohio legislature, Mr. West, of Logan, offer ed the subjoined resolution :

Revolved by the general assembly of the State of Ohio, That the bold, patriotic, and independent stand taken by the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas against the admission of Kanssinto the Union as a State under Calhoun's constitution merits the cordial and undivided approbation of every true democrat, and the hignest commendation of countrymen: It is stated by the Columbus correspondents of the Cir

cinnati papers that the resolution was laid on the table by a strict party vote. New York Crry.-The democratic general commit

of New York city held a meeting on Tuesday evening when a series of resolutions were offered by Mr. William D. Kennedy, of the ninth ward, recommending the ac mission of Kansas as a State with the Lecompton constitution, and approving of the President's special message on that subject; that the Lecompton convention wa vested with the power of deciding upon the manner and extent of the submission of the constitution to the prople ; that the people of Kansas will have the right, soon as admitted into the Union, of changing the constitution to suit themselves; that election fraud should be punished; that the people of any new State have the right to settle the character of their domes institutions for themselves, and that the democracy of Ne York will sustain the admission into the Union of every State so organized, without reference to the allowance exclusion of slavery therein, and approving the action the members of Congress from New York who had sus-tained the action of the President on the Kansas quetion. These resolutions were adopted, with only on vote in the negative. A committee of one from each ward was appointed to perfect arrangements for holding a public meeting, with the view of sustaining the post tion assumed by James Buchanan on the Kansas qu

A meeting of the Central Democratic Union Club was also held the same evening, at which resolutions endor-ing the admission of Kansas with the Lecompton consti-

The editor of the Auburn Advertiser has seen a por-